

MONTHLY NOTES  
OF THE  
**Library Association**  
of the United Kingdom.

**Contents** :—Official Notices—June Monthly Meeting: Paper by Mr. Ernest C. Thomas, “Library Statistics of Europe”—“Opening of the Birmingham Libraries”—“The Thomlinson Library,” by W. J. Haggerston.—Library Notes—Catalogues and Reports—Notices of Bibliographies—Correspondence.

THE next Monthly Meeting of the Association will be held at the London Institution, Finsbury Circus, on Friday, July 7th, 1882, at 8 p.m., for the transaction of business.

After the Monthly Meeting will be held a Meeting of the Committee (of the whole Association) appointed to prepare illustrations to the Cataloguing Rules.

The Committee on Size-Notation will also meet.

The date of the Annual Meeting at Cambridge, has been definitely fixed for Tuesday, the 5th September, and probably three following days. A meeting of Cambridge residents has been held, and a Committee appointed to make the necessary local arrangements. The Council will be glad to receive offers of Papers as early as possible.

The following letter has been received from Mr. Edward Edwards, in acknowledgment to the intimation that he had been elected an Honorary Member of our Association :—

12, Iffley Road, Oxford,  
10th May, 1882.

DEAR SIR,—My most cordial and respectful thanks are offered to the Library Association for the honour they have done me in placing my name upon their roll as an Honorary Member, a distinction which I highly prize.

The one regret that mingles with my feelings of satisfaction upon the occasion is, that I can scarcely hope to testify my sense of the obligation conferred upon

me, even by my attendance as a looker-on, at the Cambridge Meeting. Advanced age, fast-failing strength, and increasing deafness are warnings that may not be disregarded.

To the worthy labours of the Association, I heartily wish every prosperity.

For the kindness which prompted you to propose me for the honour, and for the very obliging terms in which you have notified it, I tender my especial thanks.

I am, Dear Sir, With great respect,

Your Faithful Servant,

EDWARD EDWARDS.

ERNEST THOMAS, Esq.,

Hon Secretary of the Library Association.

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It is hoped that those of our members, who have not already paid their subscriptions for the current year, will forward them to the TREASURER before the books are closed for the audit, and it is also hoped that as many members as possible will show their appreciation of the MONTHLY NOTES in their enlarged form by forwarding the additional voluntary subscription of 2s.

#### JUNE MONTHLY MEETING.

THE Eighth Monthly Meeting of the Fifth Year of the Association was held at the London Institution, on Friday, June 2nd, at 8 p.m., Mr. B. R. WHEATLEY, V.P., in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, it was announced that Mr. James M. Horsburgh, Principal Librarian of the London Institution, had joined the Association. Mr. J. P. Edmond, 64, Bonaccord Street, Aberdeen, and Mr. William Buchanan, 10, Carrington Street, Glasgow, were duly elected members of the Association. The following gentlemen were proposed and seconded for election at the next Monthly Meeting : Mr. A. B. Chamberlain, Whetstone, Somerset Road, Edgbaston, and Mr. Silvanus Wilkins, Forest House, Moseley, proposed by Mr. SCARSE ; Mr. Walter T. Glover, Moorhurst, Kersal, Manchester, proposed by Mr. THOMAS.

It was proposed by Mr. H. R. TEDDER, and seconded by Mr. E. C. THOMAS, that Count Ugo Balzani and Professor Carl Dziatzko be elected Honorary Members of the Association.

The Chairman then called upon Mr. ERNEST C. THOMAS to read a Paper, entitled

#### LIBRARY STATISTICS OF EUROPE,

Of which, in consequence of the pressure on our space, we can only present an abstract.

After referring to the development of interest in general library statistics within recent times, the writer described briefly the various attempts that had been made to deal with (1) the library statistics of particular countries; (2) general European and comparative statistics. The statistics of France, Italy, Switzerland, and Austria in particular, had been more or less satisfactorily ascertained and published within the last twenty years—those of France, Italy, and

Austria by their respective Governments, those of Switzerland and Germany generally by private effort.

Not very much had been done, at all events, to publish general or comparative statistics since the attempts of Constantin in 1839, and the fuller inquiries of Mr. Edward Edwards, whose results were published by the Statistical Society in 1848. Inquiries were instituted, in connexion with the Select Committees of the House of Commons on the British Museum and on Public Libraries, in 1836-7 and 1849-50 respectively. In the former case but little information was collected; in the latter case, returns were received from Continental Governments, describing, but describing rather generally, some 264 libraries. Meantime, Mr. Edwards had supplemented his former tables, and was enabled to furnish the Committee with statistical accounts of 457 libraries (including those in the United Kingdom) of 10,000 volumes and upwards.

Since that time very little had been done to present details, though summary comparisons on insufficient data had been made by the compilers of some of the reports issued by particular governments on their own libraries, especially in the Italian and Austrian Reports already mentioned. The treatment of this question in the United States Report is not one of the most satisfactory chapters in that valuable volume, occupying itself too exclusively with Balbi, and not making full use of later authorities. Very recently a paper was published by Bratassevic in an Austrian official publication, the *Statistische Monatschrift*, in which an attempt was made to compare the library statistics of the chief European countries. Austria was patriotically brought out at the head of the list, as possessing the largest number of public libraries, and the largest percentage of books in such libraries in proportion to its population. Next in number of libraries came France, Italy, Prussia, and then Great Britain, which was said to have only 200 libraries, with 2,871,493 printed volumes and 26,000 MSS.! Austria was shown to possess 26·8 volumes per 100 inhabitants, while Great Britain had only 6 per 100. The writer would not have attached so much importance to the article, but for the fact that it had been quoted as authoritative in English journals, and had been reproduced in our official organ without comment and apparently without suspicion. The writer went on to show the obvious incorrectness of the figures, as well as the incompleteness of the list appended by Bratassevic to his paper of the (154) European libraries of 25,000 volumes and upwards, and briefly summarised the results of an inquiry which Mr. Tedder and himself had recently been conducting, an account of which will shortly be published in the new volume of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. He concluded by urging that library statistics, though their value might of course be easily exaggerated, nevertheless had great interest, and might prove of great practical service.

A brief discussion followed, after which a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Thomas for his Paper.

The Meeting then adjourned.

### OPENING OF THE BIRMINGHAM LIBRARIES.

On Thursday, June 1st, the new Central Free Reference and Lending Libraries and Temporary Art Gallery were formally opened by a meeting at the Town Hall, followed by a banquet given by the Mayor in the evening. But before relating the incidents of this most interesting occasion, it may be worth while to devote a few words to the past history of the Free Library. The Act was adopted at Birmingham on June 21st, 1860, and the District Library at Constitution Hill was that first opened on April 22nd of the following year. A building for a Central Library was subsequently erected, and the Lending Department and Art Gallery made accessible to the public on September 6th, 1865. The Reference Library was not ready until twelve months later, the interval having been occupied in selecting books upon the principle of representing every phase of human thought, of acquiring works of permanent value, as well as modern and popular literature, and of adding rare and costly volumes not usually to be found in provincial or private libraries. A collection of 16,195 volumes was thus brought together, and the Reference Department opened on October 26th, 1866. Two years later, the famous Shakespeare Memorial Library was commenced, and in 1873 Mr. Bragge presented his Cervantes Collection in 590 volumes. The important Staunton Warwickshire Collection was purchased for £2,285 in 1875. These and many other accessions made more accommodation for them a pressing necessity; and it was in carrying out plans for new buildings that occurred the disastrous fire of Saturday, January 11th, 1879, which entirely destroyed the fabric and all the books except about a thousand volumes. With the prompt energy to be expected of Birmingham citizens, the Free Libraries' Committee passed a resolution on the following Monday, declaring that it was a public duty to repair the loss, and asking for a subscription of not less than £10,000. A sub-committee was also appointed to devise a scheme for a new library. At a subsequent public meeting, the appeal was heartily responded to, and at the close of the year £14,000 had been collected. This sum has since been increased, and still remains untouched, the insurance fund and a portion of the ordinary income having been alone expended. Temporary apartments for reference and lending libraries were fitted up in the Council House, and the new building was commenced, the plans having been agreed to about three months after the fire. A few facts relating to this last and notable addition to great English libraries may be here given. A portico, 32 feet wide and 12 feet deep, affords entry to the vestibule, which is 29 feet wide by 20 feet deep, separated from the hall by a glass screen. The entrance hall is of noble proportions, being 60 feet long, 28 feet wide, and 45 feet high. At the right hand are placed the circulating library and the news-room, a lofty, well ventilated hall, 100 feet long and 64 feet wide, fitted with stands and other conveniences. The reference library on the first storey is approached by a

staircase winding up the side of the lofty entrance-hall. It is somewhat in the shape of  $\Gamma$ , the projection at right angles representing the room used as a Temporary Art Gallery, the upright line standing for the Library proper. The latter is divided into a central compartment and two aisles by granite columns, supporting arches, in which are clerestory windows fitted in with coloured glass. There are also sky lights in the roof. The centre of the room reaches to 50 feet, the aisles being 23 feet high. The latter are separated by barriers from the centre of the room, and contain the presses for books placed against the walls. Around both rooms is a light iron gallery, giving access to the upper shelves. A marked feature of the ornamentation of the room is the splendid glazed bookcase, occupying the whole of the entrance end of the room, which is to contain books of special value. All the fittings are of oak, and admirably finished and arranged. The decorations are extremely rich and beautiful. Leading out of the Temporary Art Gallery is the Shakespeare Library, upon which special decoration has been lavished. The design is Elizabethan, and the bookcases, which are glazed, richly carved. The upper compartments are filled in with screens of gilt metal-work. These are the apartments to which the public are admitted, but there are other rooms for the use of the officials. Altogether, for convenience of arrangement and beauty of design, this new Library leaves nothing to be desired. The total cost, including fittings and all other expenses, will be between £52,000 and £53,000. About 50,000 volumes have been already collected for the Reference, and 20,000 volumes for the Lending Library. Upon the former, £12,000 have been already expended, and a great number of books have been presented. The new Art Gallery has already been enriched by a superb collection of paintings by David Cox, and other valuable gifts.

The inaugural ceremony took place at twelve o'clock in the Town Hall, which was filled with an audience consisting of leading townspeople, representatives of the educational and other public institutions, donors to the Library Restoration Fund, the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Avery), Mr. J. Bright, Mr. J. Chamberlain, Sir H. Parkes, Mr. G. J. Johnson, Chairman, Mr. Timmins, Mr. J. T. Bunce, Mr. Tonks, and the other members of the Library Committee; besides Mr. J. D. Mullins (Chief Librarian), Mr. G. Wakeley (Sub-Librarian), and other members of his staff. A special feature in the proceedings was the invitations which had been extended to about fifty of the leading Librarians of the county, nearly all of whom accepted the honour thus shown to them. The following gentlemen (nearly all members of our Association) were present:—

Sir P. CUNLIFFE OWEN, South Kensington; G. BULLEN, British Museum; H. R. TEDDER, Athenaeum Club; E. C. THOMAS, Hon. Sec. Library Association; E. B. NICHOLSON, Bodleian Library; Sir J. A. PICTON, Chairman, P. COWELL, Chief Librarian, Liverpool Public Library; Alderman BAKER, Chairman, C. W. SUTTON, Chief Librarian, Manchester Public Library; C. E. SCARSE, Birmingham Old Library; R. K. DENT, Aston Manor; G. CATLIN, Handsworth; J. BAILEY, Smethwick; C. F. MACKMAIN, Bilston; C. G. VIRGO, Bradford; J. F.

NICHOLIS, Bristol; E. BROWN, Coventry; S. STEPHENS, Darlaston; F. T. BARRETT, Glasgow; J. YATES, Leeds; W. J. HAGGERSTON, Newcastle-on-Tyne; J. P. BLISCOE, Nottingham; W. H. K. WRIGHT, Plymouth; A. COTGREAVE, Richmond; T. HURST, Sheffield; A. MORGAN, Walsall; C. MADELEY, Warrington; T. HAYNES, Warwick; D. MARSH, Willenhall; and Mr. HENRY STEVENS, representing American Libraries.

In opening the proceedings the MAYOR gave an account of the history of the Library, and of the exertions made to repair the loss, and said the ceremony of that day would constitute a memorable incident in the annals of Birmingham. The Library was truly free, inasmuch as the people were invited to participate in its treasures without payment, and without let or hindrance. It was great also, not only in the sense of magnitude, but as being a collection of the finest monuments of literature. They had the pleasure of opening this restored Library with 50,000 volumes, not a mere mass of books, but a well selected library. Mr. JAFFRAY (Treasurer of the Restoration Committee) then handed to the Mayor a cheque of £15,179 18s. 8d., representing the contributions to the Restoration Fund, and suggested that after the cheque had been cashed it should be framed and hung up among the arts treasures of the Library.

Mr. JOHN BRIGHT, in delivering his inaugural address, remarked that his speaking from that platform had generally been connected with great political questions on which there was often much conflict of opinion, and in which the speaker was stimulated with a desire to convince. There was now no conflict, but a perfect unanimity. Many platitudes were usually spoken on these occasions, and perhaps on this subject as on education, everything that could be said had been spoken many hundreds of times. He would, however, relate an incident of his own experience connected with his late friend, Sir David Dundas, whom he visited upon his death bed, and who said: "I have never pretended to be a learned man or a scholar, but God has given me a great love of books," and gave him (Mr. Bright) a parting benediction in a quotation from a letter of Lord Bacon, "May God lead you by the hand." What was a great love of books? It was, in point of fact, something like a personal introduction to the great and good men of all times. Many of us have felt something of this feeling when in a great library. A house might possess costly pictures, valuable ornaments, and a great variety of decoration, but the speaker would prefer to these, one comfortable room well stocked with books. The only subject of lamentation is, that life was too short to enjoy them all. After referring to the great libraries at Windsor, Chatsworth, Woburn, and other places, Mr. Bright said that, not only in the houses of royalty, of tremendous personages, and of the middle classes, but also in the houses of the most humble, a little library was a most precious possession. Twenty years ago, when spending a holiday in Sutherlandshire, he entered a shepherd's cottage, where the only book was a thin volume of an edition, never before or since seen, of "Paradise Regained," the work of a poet unsurpassed in any age or any country. The presence of this little volume seemed to transfigure the solitary cottage, which was illuminated as

it were, by the genius of Milton. He went on to say that he was not a critic and had never been a writer, but he had an opinion of the books he read. He had read one very lately to which he would like to refer. It was a book containing the compositions of the most remarkable old lady he had ever heard of, one Janet Hamilton. She was the wife of a journeyman shoemaker, and had had a family of ten children. She never went to school, she did not learn to write till she was fifty, became blind at sixty, and lived to about 76. The love of books was her ruling passion. Now this old lady has written poems, which, if placed among the writings of Burns, no one would doubt were the work of the greatest of Scotch poets. Mr. Bright then spoke at some length of the American poets, referring to Bryant, Longfellow, Whittier, Wendell Holmes and Lowell, and quoted the "Song of Hiawatha," and the "Farewell of a Virginian Slave-mother." Without exaggerating the productions of the American poets, he would give them the title of "pleasure-giving," which, forty years ago, he had given to Leigh Hunt, affording thereby much satisfaction to the poet. He would mention one other book, to his mind the most instructive book of history he had ever read, Bancroft's "History and Colonisation of the United States," which deserves to be read by everybody who wishes to have a true knowledge of some of the most important events which transpired during the last century. In the Central Library no price would be demanded, and no question asked as to any book that might be wanted to be read. Everything would be free, not to the rich only, but to the poor also, as well as to that large class, neither rich nor poor. No greater blessing than a love of books could be given to an artisan's family. In conclusion, Mr. Bright said: "I spoke of the library in the beginning of my observations as a fountain of refreshment, instruction, and wisdom. Of it may be said, that he who drinks shall still thirst, and thirsting for knowledge and still drinking, we may hope that he will grow to a greater mental and moral stature, more useful as a citizen, more moral as a man. Mr. Mayor, I cannot sit down without offering my word of congratulation to you over the circumstances which have brought about this day's interesting occupation. The wisdom and the generosity of your municipality are conspicuous; if not known, you are becoming known as the leading municipality in this country."

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN proposed a vote of thanks to the subscribers, the committee, and officers of the Library Restoration Fund. He agreed with Mr. Bright in his estimate of the value of small collections of books, and did not doubt that a few books, properly read and comprehended, might be of more use to their possessor than the vast collection of some millionaire. He was a great believer in miscellaneous reading. Mr. G. J. JOHNSON seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously. Mr. SAM. TIMMINS, in reply, said their work was not yet finished. It might be hoped that some of those present would render additional assistance in making the central library of the central town of England worthy of the Borough and

of the neighbourhood by which it was surrounded. After a vote of thanks to the Mayor, the company left the Town Hall and visited the new building, which was then declared to be open.

In the evening, the Mayor gave a banquet to celebrate the event. About 140 guests sat down to table, and among those present were most of those gentlemen whose names have already been mentioned. After the usual loyal and colonial toasts, the latter of which were responded to by Lord NORTON and Sir H. PARKES in a manner quite commensurate with the magnitude of the subject, Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN proposed the toast of the "Duties of the Municipality towards Art and Literature." He said twenty years ago many persons would have disposed of the question in very few words. They would have been considered matters above the comprehension of town councillors and aldermen. There had grown up, however, an extended conception of the capacities of local government. One result had been the attraction to municipal life of men of higher character and great intellectual power.

Mr. R. W. DALE responded on behalf of "Literature." The library opened that day would not augment the material wealth of the town. In the erection of that library they had higher purposes in view. Its value was largely increased in his mind by the fact that they owed it not to private munificence, but to the public spirit of the municipality. By erecting Libraries and Galleries of Art they were surrounding municipal life with new and higher interests. Sir P. CUNLIFFE OWEN responded for "Art." Mr. Alderman COLLINGS proposed "Libraries and Librarians," and excited some laughter when he said that he had been accused of setting on fire the old Library, in order to get a better one; and the laughter was increased by his inadvertent remark of "But so it was." Mr. Alderman BAKER (Mayor of Manchester), in reply, observed that Mr. Bright had delivered an interesting and "intelligent" address. Mr. E. B. NICHOLSON (Bodley's Librarian) said that librarians could have but one opinion as to the collection of books which had been gathered together, the building provided for them, and the opportunities of self-instruction and recreation afforded to the poorest inhabitant of Birmingham. And, although the librarian was very often a ratepayer, with an income inadequate to his social position, no less than to his skill and energy, he believed that nearly all librarians admitted the impossibility of maintaining such libraries on the voluntary system, and endorsed the principles of the Public Libraries Acts. The non-adoption of those Acts by such towns as London (one parish excepted), Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dublin, Belfast, Hull and Portsmouth, was not only a local but a national misfortune. Unless such towns hastened their steps, adoption should be made compulsory; for the rate-supported public library was, directly or indirectly, every man's gain, and was an indispensable element in popular education and popular civilisation. He cordially acknowledged the industry, energy, and ingenuity contributed to their profession by free public librarians and not least by Mr. Mullins and such former Birmingham men as Mr.

Barrett and Mr. Haggerston. Mr. J. BRIGHT, in proposing the health of the Mayor, agreed that nothing could be of greater advantage to the country than that the municipal corporations of the United Kingdom should have increased powers. The MAYOR, in responding, expressed his profound gratification that so many gentlemen of literary distinction representing other institutions, were with them that day. The priceless collection of books they had seen had been acquired absolutely by the potentiality of the penny rate.

A select few then adjourned to hold the usual meeting of the Executive Committee. We must apologise for even mentioning the name of that mysterious body; but it ought to be known that it was owing to one of its members, Mr. J. Thackray Bunce, supported by another prominent officer, Mr. Sam. Timmins, that so many librarians were asked to attend the ceremony of the morning. We can say no more, but merely add that a great deal of urgent and important business was transacted amid the chanting of weird hymns, and the celebration of mystic rites known only to the initiated. At last, this pleasant day, ever to be remembered by those who were present, came to an end. In conclusion, acknowledgment should be made to our excellent Vice-President, Mr. J. D. Mullins, both for the important share he took in the preparations for the day and for the attention he paid to the comfort of his *confrères*.

H. R. T.

#### THE THOMLINSON LIBRARY, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

(Continued from p. 72.)

THE Visitors for the year 1789 report that they "found all the books in their proper places (and generally in good state and condition) as specified in the Catalogue," except 14 stated to be wanted, and that 2 had been replaced.

The Report for 1826 is to the effect that with a view to make the Library more generally useful, permission had been given to Mr. Emerson Charnley, bookseller, to print and publish a catalogue of the collections, which he had undertaken to do at his own risk and expense. Mr. Charnley was further requested to furnish an estimate of the probable expense of putting the Library into proper repair, many of the volumes being found in a state of rapid decay; but as there was no fund for the purpose, the visitors suggested that a public subscription should be entered into to defray the cost, as well as the "fitting up the Library in such a manner as to render it convenient for study." The Reverend the Librarian was also instructed to attend between the hours of 11 and 1 every day, except Sundays, Festivals, Fast Days, and Saturdays, which were set apart for cleaning the books.

Little evidently had been done, for in the following year the Visitors found the books, especially those in the Old Library, to be in a "very bad state," and they gave instructions to Mr. Charnley to "superintend the repairing and binding of those books, and to

make a catalogue of the same, which is to be done at the expense of the Corporation (this section being called the Corporation Library), so as to put the Library into that state in which it may be creditable to the Corporation, and useful to the inhabitants."

From this period until August, 1829, the local papers were filled with letters from indignant townsmen, who insisted on having the Library open not from 11 to 1 on five days in the week, but for six hours in the day for one part of the year, five hours for another, and never at any time of the year for less than four hours. In July of that year, a deputation from the Newcastle Literary and Philosophical Society waited upon the Mayor to request that the Trustees would deal with the matter. On the 31st of that month the Mayor, the Vicar, and the Lecturer of St. Nicholas, met in Dr. Thomlinson's Library, when it was resolved:—"That the Library shall be accessible to the public during the hours pointed out by the will of the late Dr. Thomlinson, which are as follows: From the 10th of March to the 10th of September, from seven o'clock in the morning to one in the afternoon; from the 10th of September to the 10th of November, from eight to one; from the 10th of November to the 16th of January, from nine to one, and from the 16th of January to the 10th of March, from eight in the morning to one in the afternoon, on every day, unless it be Sunday, Festival, or Fast Day, and shall be open in the afternoon from three o'clock to six o'clock, if the sun do not set before, in the event of any person from the country coming to the Library on purpose to study."

In the same year Mr. Charnley's promised Catalogue was published. It is a work that reflects very great credit upon the compiler for accuracy of transcription, but is comparatively useless to the student, as it is a mere alphabetical list according to authors' names, and the student wishing to follow up any particular subject would find it useless unless (which is very unlikely) he was thoroughly acquainted with the authorities on such subject. Things improved at the Library, but the interest soon fell off. Visitors could not get the book they asked for, others were in such a condition as to be unfit to use, the room was not opened at the hours named, and so the matter wore on, until for many years past I am satisfied many a day goes over without a single person being put to the trouble to hunt up the beadle in his solitude near to the workshop of the late Thomas Bewick.

For more than fifty years, the Committee of the Literary and Philosophical Society have been making attempts to get the Library transferred to their fine building in Westgate Road, but the negotiations have always broken down, the principal difficulty during the late Vicar's term of office being the £25, or rather £30 per annum endowment. The present Vicar, the Rev. Canon Martin, M.A., speaking at the banquet which followed the inauguration of the Public Library, South Shields, Oct. 16th, 1873, in reply to the toast of the "Literary Institutions of the North," said "That he was a trustee of one of the oldest Literary institutions in this part of the kingdom, that curious, old, and now obsolete

library, called Thomlinson's Library. It was, perhaps, as little used as a library could be, the old books in many cases covered with dust, with dilapidated clothing, waiting till some old bookworm came to make his researches, and fish out something worth knowing. . . . There was precious little in the Thomlinson Library to arouse the emotional spirit, unless one was interested in the ecclesiastical controversy of 250 years ago; but still it was a grand old library—and it was a free library."

In conclusion, allow me to say, that since the establishment of the Public Library, the subject of transferring the contents of the Thomlinson Library to the Reference Department of the new building now in course of erection, has been again and again re-opened, and the Public Libraries' Committee have appointed a sub-Committee to consider the whole question, to examine the library, confer with the trustees and report as to the advisability of taking over the entire collection, so that for all time it may be carefully preserved, and the entire public, not only of Newcastle and the Northern Counties, but of the country at large, may have the advantage of its use. I shall not fail to advise the readers of *MONTHLY NOTES* of the future progress of the negotiations.

W. J. HAGGERSTON.

#### LIBRARY NOTES.

**BELFAST.**—On the 1st inst., a large and influential deputation presented a memorial to the Belfast Town Council urging the establishment of a Public Library, Art Gallery, and Museum, under the Free Libraries Act. The Mayor promised to call a meeting on the subject at the earliest possible moment.

**BIRMINGHAM.**—It is surely not the least notable circumstance in connection with the re-opening of the Birmingham Central Libraries (of which we have spoken elsewhere in the present number), that Cardinal Newman has sent the Mayor a cheque for £20 towards the Library Fund.—Messrs. Tangye Brothers have offered to furnish a "John Bright Room" in the new Library in a style equal to that of the "Shakspeare Room," and to provide it with books on political economy, statistics, and modern history, and also to establish a fund for the purpose of keeping up the supply of books, and of providing prizes to students of these subjects.

**CARDIFF.**—The new Free Library building was opened on the 31st of May, in presence of the Mayor and Corporation of Cardiff. An imposing procession, representing nearly every public body connected with the town, passed through the town before the ceremony, and business was largely suspended.

**HASTINGS.**—At the public meeting held on the 16th of May to consider the desirability of adopting the Public Libraries Acts, it was decided, after a long and animated discussion, not to adopt them. Only about twenty voted in favour of their adoption, and Mr. Liddiard, the mover of the resolution, finally withdrew his demand for a poll.

HULL.—The forty-fifth annual meeting of the Yorkshire Union of Mechanics' Institutes will be held at Hull on Wednesday, June 21st, 1882, at the Royal Philosophical Institute. The conference will be opened by Sir Edward Baines, the President of the Union, and the evening meeting will be presided over by Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, M.P. The number of institutes in the Union in 1881 was 256, most of which possess libraries of their own, besides which the Union has a Village Library of over 16,000 volumes, which are circulated in boxes of 50 volumes each amongst over 160 villages.

LEICESTER.—Mr. J. Hart, High Bailiff of the Borough of Leicester, has offered to present a new Free Library to East St. Margaret's Ward. Plans have been approved by the donor, and the building will soon be commenced. The structure will be a handsome one, and the front will be decorated by carved panels. The principal room will be 55 feet by 34, and a Librarian's room and offices will be included.

LIVERPOOL.—LIVERPOOL (LYCEUM) LIBRARY.—The one hundred and twenty-third annual meeting of the proprietors of this Library was held on Tuesday, May 23rd, the President, Mr. Fred. Wevill, in the chair. The Committee's Annual Report showed that during the year, ending April 30th, the Library had been open 306 days, and in that period 61,176 works (equal to about 150,000 vols.) were issued, being an average of about 500 volumes. We find, from the Treasurer's Accounts, that £635 10s. 7d. has been expended in the purchase and hire of books and bookbinding; and, after the payment of the necessary working expenses of the Library, a balance of £116 14s. 8d. is carried forward. There have been 1,166 volumes added to the permanent stock of the Library during the year, and 1,409 volumes have been borrowed from London Subscription Libraries, making a total acquisition of 2,575 volumes of new books.

LONDON.—BRABY AND CO.'S LIBRARY.—The twelfth annual meeting was held in the new building, erected as a Library, at Messrs. Braby and Co.'s works, Deptford, Mr. Frederick Braby in the chair. Mr. W. R. Douthwaite, of Gray's Inn, and Mr. C. Welch, our Hon. Secretary, were present. The Report was read by Mr. G. R. Humphrey, the Hon. Secretary. The Library now contains over 1,400 volumes, and the circulation for last year was 990. A resolution of congratulation and good-will was moved by the Rev. R. J. Simpson, and seconded by Mr. Douthwaite.

LONDON.—LONDON LIBRARY.—The annual meeting was held on Thursday, May 25th, when Sir Henry Barkly took the chair, and, in moving the adoption of the Report (see p. 96), referred to the fact of the occasion being the twenty-fifth anniversary of the librarianship of Mr. R. Harrison, under whose management the Library has shown a steady improvement. In 1857 there were only 660 members; there are now 1,712. Suggestions were made as to circulating the Report beforehand among the members, and opening the Library in the evening, and it was understood that

these questions would have the careful consideration of the Committee.

LONDON.—SOUTH LONDON FREE LIBRARY.—This is entirely supported by voluntary subscriptions, and in consequence of a demand having been made by the parochial authorities for rates, a public meeting was held on Monday, June 6, to protest against the attempt, as being contrary to the Act 6 and 7 Victoria, c. 36, which exempts such institutions. It was finally agreed that a member of the council should wait upon the assessment authorities on the subject.

MANCHESTER.—We are sorry to learn, from Mr. Sutton, of the decease of one of our Manchester members. Mr. T. B. M. Dutton, Librarian of the Manchester Athenæum, died on the 6th inst., after a long and painful illness. He had been librarian of the institution for about eighteen years, and was previously an assistant in the Free Public Library at Peel Park, Salford. Some of our members will doubtless remember his friendliness and courtesy in connection with our meeting at Manchester.

MERTHYR TYDVIL.—The six days' poll on the question of adopting the Public Libraries Acts finished at Merthyr Vale on Saturday, May 20th. The total numbers were: For, 294; Against, 826; majority against, 532. The parish of Merthyr is a long and straggling one, and the heaviest vote was in the outlying district of Dowlais, where the "hill men" registered 506 votes "against," and only 11 "for." The entire number of voters is about 2,500, so that the poll was not generally a heavy one.

NEWARK.—The foundation-stone of the Free Library, which has been presented to the inhabitants of Newark by the munificence of Mr. William Gilstrap, of Bury St. Edmunds, a native of the town, was laid by the donor on Whit Monday, May 29th. The Mayor and Corporation, and most of the leading inhabitants were present. After laying the stone, Mr. Gilstrap delivered an address.

OXFORD.—Grants of books have been made by convocation, to the Free Library at Bethnal Green, to the Watford Public Library, and to the Halifax Public Library.—A decree has also been passed, making over to the curators of the Bodleian Library, the rooms hitherto used for examination purposes.

READING.—The New Public Buildings, comprising a Town Hall, Public Free Library and Museum, and Schools for Science and Art, built at a cost of about £60,000, were presented to the Corporation on behalf of the Subscribers, and formally opened, on May 31st, by John Walter, Esq., M.P. The Public Libraries Acts were adopted at Reading on May 17th, 1877. The population of the Borough is 42,000, and the income derived from the rate is about £645. The Library receives a start by a donation of 4,000 volumes. The Library is divided into three rooms by handsome screens of oak and glass from floor to ceiling. The Lending Library is 21 feet by 31 feet, the News-room is 28 feet by 31 feet, and the Reading-room and

Reference Library is 48 feet by 42 feet, each room being 20 feet high. There are also arrangements for ladies' and librarian's rooms.

STAFFORD.—Mr. De' Mazzinghi writes : The Borough of Stafford has recently been organizing a Free Library, both for reference and circulation. Its reading-room for newspapers and periodicals has been open a month or two, and has found favour with the townsmen. The Library has been built upon a site adjoining the New Borough Hall, with which it communicates. Over the reading-room is a room of the same size, containing a museum of natural history, furnished almost entirely by the collection made by the donor, Mr. Wragge, in the course of his travels in different parts of the world. Another donation is that of the Hon. William Littleton's Zulu Collection, made in South Africa, when acting as secretary to Sir Bartle Frere. The room above at the top is appropriated to the School of Art. The Circulating Library is lodged at present in presses occupying one side of the Mayor's dining-room, which has also to accommodate at one end an indicator for 5,000 volumes upon the Wolverhampton principle. Liberal donations have been made, both of books and money, and the lending department will soon be opened. A Reference Library also is lodged in glazed cases occupying a side of the Reading-room. One of these is filled by a useful set of standard works, forming part of the bequest of the late Mr. Hicks Smith, Barrister, to the William Salt Library, which, by arrangement with his representatives, was waived by the Trustees in favour of the Free Library, the William Salt Library being, as is well known, of a very special and indeed unique character, even amongst antiquarian Libraries, and its shelf accommodation appropriated to books of a corresponding kind. The Corporation of Stafford have appointed Mr. Calvert to take charge of the Free Library.

STOCKPORT.—Mr. J. D. Buckland has been appointed Chief Librarian of the Stockport Public Free Library, in succession to Mr. W. H. Greenbough, and has intimated his intention to join the Library Association.

YORK.—The Rev. Canon Raine, the librarian of York Minster Library, recently read a very interesting paper on the Library to a meeting of friends at the house of our Hon. Local Secretary, Mr. W. W. Morrell, which will probably be published shortly by the Yorkshire Archaeological Society. The Library is at present admirably conducted, and is open two or three times a week. A few persons pay a subscription of £1 1s. annually.

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Cornell University now possesses a Library Bulletin similar to that at Harvard, and consisting of a record of the principal accessions, with notes and bibliographical appendices. Among the latter, brief lists of books relating to the German civil services and to Petrarch, drawn up by the Librarian, Prof. Willard Fiske, have already appeared.

The children of the late Mr. T. Crane have erected at Quincy (U.S.) a Public Library building, in memory of their father, at a cost of 40,000 dols.

A part of the numerous MS. collections left by the late Édouard Fournier have been acquired by the Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal, another part relating to the City of Paris is in the hands of the Bibliothèque de la Ville, and the late Baron James de Rothschild secured the remainder.

The *Journal des Savants* for April contains an article on the Cabinet des Manuscrits of the Bibliothèque Nationale.

The sixteenth and last volume, just out, of the new edition of "Correspondance par Grimm, Diderot, etc., revue par M. Tourneux" (which, may be observed, includes an excellent index to the work), contains a long account of the library and papers of Grimm, during and after the Revolution.

In the Supplement to the *Journal de Genève* of April 14, may be read an interesting contribution by M. Eug. Ritter, "Sur les MSS. de J. J. Rousseau, légués à la Bibliothèque Publique de Genève par Mme. Streckeisen-Moulton."

The article "Libraries" in the forthcoming volume of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, which will soon be published, may be presumed to possess special interest to our readers. Unfortunately the space at the disposal of the writers has necessitated a great deal of compression as well as a great deal of omission. This is especially the case with regard to the chapter on "Library Management," where an endeavour is made to present a succinct but comprehensive view of this much-embracing subject. In the historical portion, the well-known facts relating to ancient and mediæval libraries are re-examined. Modern libraries are treated not so much with a view to write their annals, or to describe their bibliographical rarities, as to show the nature of the work they are accomplishing. The article is followed by elaborate tables, in which much information as to the leading libraries of the world is briefly presented. In the case of the United Kingdom no particular limit of extent is observed, and full justice is done to the Libraries established under the Acts. As regards other countries, it has been necessary to draw the line, except in the case of special collections, at libraries of 30,000 volumes and upwards. The entire number of libraries thus registered amounts to nearly a thousand, and the information has been obtained in nearly every instance direct from the officers of the different libraries enumerated.

#### LIBRARY CATALOGUES AND REPORTS.

**Manchester Public Free Libraries. Catalogue of the Chorlton and Ardwick Branch Lending Library. Second Edition. Manchester, 1882. 1a. 8vo, pp. viii.-237, hf.-bd.**

A catalogue of a collection of 17,500 volumes on the now familiar index system, which was first introduced by the Manchester Free Libraries fifteen years ago.

There are very many references under subjects to the contents of collected works, &c. The printing is in double columns, and in small but readable type.

**Manor of Aston Local Board. The Fourth Annual Report of the Free Libraries' Committee. March 26th, 1881, to March 25th, 1882.** La. 8vo, pp. 16 and cover.

The new library buildings were opened 4th January, 1882, and the Reference Library and News-room have been much frequented. The issues in the Reference Library, from January 5th to March 25th, were 2,109. The number of volumes is 2,321. In the Lending Department there has been a decrease owing to the withdrawal of the old borrowing cards, the issue for the year being 66,092. The number of volumes in the Lending Department is 5,307. The rate produced £493 8s. 5d.

**Brighton Free Library, Museum, and Picture Gallery. . . Seventh and Eighth Annual Reports. . . during the years 1881-2. . . Brighton, 1882.** 8vo, pp. 27.

The date above, "1881-2," should be 1880-1, the reports being for these two latter years. The Reports do not afford much information as to the Library, the Sub-Committee reporting that "The Library continues to be well frequented, as many as 80 readers being usually present in the evening, and the daily number of visitors averaging above 100."

**Bristol Museum and Library. Report of Proceedings at the Eleventh Annual Meeting, held 16th February, 1882, with List of Subscribers.** 8vo, pp. 29.

The total number of subscribers was 808, and the receipts from subscriptions £11 18s. 6d.; there being a slight decrease in both sets of figures. The total income was £1,405 15s. 9d. About 630 volumes have been purchased for the Library. There were 462 subscribers to the "Library alone."

**Chester. Fourth Annual Report of the Committee of the Chester Free Public Library, 1881.** Chester, 1882. 8vo, pp. 10.

The number of readers on December 31st, 1881, was 995, the issues for the year 38,756. 206 volumes were added during the year, chiefly for the Reference Library now in course of preparation. The rate produced £607 8s. 9d., the total income (including balance from previous year of £133 11s. 5d.) being £814 16s. 4d.

**London. Report of the Committee of the London Library to the Forty-first General Meeting of the Members, May 25th, 1882.** London, 1882. 8vo, pp. 8.

There are now 1,712 members, the number having been increased by 44 during the year. The books added in the same period amounted to 3,031 volumes and 130 pamphlets. Annual circulation, 99,231 volumes. The gross receipts (£4,292) and sum spent in buying books (£889) show a slight decrease as compared with last year.

**Southport. Atkinson Free Library, Borough of Southport. Seventh Annual Report, 1881-2.** Southport. 8vo, pp. 11.

The accessions to the Library for the year were by purchase 692, by donation 266, and the total number of volumes now in the Library is 11,090. 1,260 borrowers' cards have been issued during the year. The issues were in the Lending Department 92,411, in the Reference Library 27,976. It is estimated that 159,172 persons have used the news-room, and 109,829 the reading-room during the year. At the Churchtown Branch a decrease of borrowers and readers is reported. The rate produced £748 17s. 9d., and there was a net deficiency on the year's working of £13 7s. 6½d.

**Swansea. Seventh Annual Report of the Public Library and**

**Gallery of Art Committee, 1880-81. Swansea, November, 1881.**  
**8vo, pp. 25 and cover.**

The issues for the year in the Lending Department were at the Central Library and the Morriston Branch 41,241; the decrease on the previous year being attributed to the fact, that no new books have been added for two years, and that there are but 5,456 volumes altogether in the Lending Department. The issues in the Reference Department were 45,106, and the number of volumes in stock 14,524. The rate produced £963 15s. The Committee urge the need of new buildings.

**York Subscription Library. Appendix to the General Alphabetical Catalogue for the year 1881, with a List of the Officers, etc. York, 1882. 8vo, pp. 20.**

The number of volumes circulated was 26,000, and of magazines and reviews over 2,000. The proportion of fiction circulated during one week was as nearly as possible 61·5 per cent. The number of volumes added was 282. The income for the year was £463 5s. 5d.

The Chairman of the Leamington Free Public Library Committee, in presenting his Annual Report stated that 1,336 volumes had been added to the Library, of which 957 were presented. The receipts for the year were £508 17s. 10d., and were just balanced by the expenditure. The total number of volumes in the Reference Library was 3,232, in the Lending Department 8,452. The issues were in the former 6,542, in the latter 46,074.

#### NOTICES OF BIBLIOGRAPHIES.

**Vegetable Technology : a contribution towards a bibliography of Economic Botany, with a comprehensive Subject Index.** By Benjamin Daydon Jackson, Secretary of the Linnean Society, founded upon the collections of George James Symons. London : Index Society, 1882. 4to, pp. xii.-355.

A companion volume to Mr. Jackson's equally laborious and valuable "Guide to the Literature of Botany." But however useful these works may be to specialists, it is questionable whether the Index Society fulfils its proper object in devoting over 1,000 pages within the course of two years to the subject of botany. The book is unfortunately disfigured with many misprints, and the titles are not always transcribed with bibliographical accuracy.

**An Index to Norfolk Topography.** By Walter Rye. London : Index Society, 1881. 4to, pp. xxx.-416.

This is undoubtedly of more general interest than the previous volume, and reflects great credit upon the industry of the compiler, who admits the weakness of the bibliographical part.

**Gutenberg : was he the Inventor of Printing ? An Historical Investigation embodying a Criticism on Dr. Van der Linde's "Gutenberg."** By J. H. Hessels. London : B. Quaritch, 1882. (Only 200 copies printed for sale.) 8vo, pp. xxvii.-201. Price £1 1s.

Dr. Hessels is still unable to answer the question. Of the three principle documents upon which it rests, one no longer exists, and the other two are only extant in transcripts. Many of the other Gutenberg documents are here shown to be forgeries ; the theory of a continuance of his press far into the 16th century is no longer tenable ; the remarkable discovery of the fraud in the Darmstadt "Prognostication" removes seven works from the Gutenberg list ; and the 42-line Bible, and other books in the same type, must in future be ascribed to

Schoeffer. As early as November 15th, 1454, two printers were at work at Mentz; one *may* have been Johann Gutenberg, the other was *probably* Peter Schoeffer, but there is evidence to show that the latter did not claim to be the first Mentz printer, as in his *Justinianus* of 24th May, 1468, he speaks of two Johannes "librorum insignes prothocaragmatici." One of these must have been Fust, who was the other? He may have been Gutenberg, but there is not sufficient evidence to prove the fact. It will thus be seen that the result of Dr. Hessel's inquiry is somewhat of a negative and disappointing character. But he has produced a scholarly and able book, which, for its critical examination of documentary evidence, and deductions from comparative study of founts of type, is an admirable specimen of exact bibliography as opposed to the feeble gossip which usually passes under the name. The book is dedicated to our president, Mr. Henry Bradshaw, in "testimony . . . of his singularly profound, exact and original knowledge of bibliography and kindred subjects."

**A Manual of Historical Literature:** comprising brief descriptions of the most Important Histories, in English, French, and German; together with practical suggestions as to methods and courses of Historical Study, for the use of Students, General Readers, and Collectors of Books. By C. Kendall Adams. New York: Harper, 1882. Sm. 8vo, pp. xl.-665. Price 12s. 6d.

A useful and laborious work, consisting of fourteen chapters, the first being a general introduction, the latest being devoted to the United States. In each chapter the most important works on the subject to which it relates are briefly criticised, and at the end of each chapter are a few suggestions to readers and students. The index is good.

**The Reporters arranged and characterised, with incidental remarks.** By John William Wallace. Fourth edition, revised and enlarged. Published under the superintendence of Franklin Fiske Heard. Boston: Soule and Bugbee, 1882. 8vo, pp. vi.-654.

We should have noticed this book before, but that we hoped to find room for more than a brief note of it. Originally contributed to an American law magazine, this work, which in its 2nd edition, issued in 1845, filled less than a hundred and fifty pages, has now grown to a portly volume. Its notices of the earlier reporters are not only of interest, but of practical service to the lawyer; and its veteran author has reason to feel that he at least is no longer, in Coke's phrase, "a debtor to his profession." His editor, Mr. Heard, who has come to the aid of the author's failing eyesight, has already done much for legal bibliography.

**A Complete Catalogue of Modern Law Books, British, American, and Colonial;** with a Selection of such Old Works as are still of value, and Appendices containing Chronological Tables of all the Reports, Statutes, Digests, &c., of the various Countries. Compiled by Herbert G. Sweet; the very full Index of Subjects by John Nicholson, Librarian of the Hon. Society of Lincoln's Inn. London: Henry Sweet, 1882. 8vo, pp. vii.-472.

The Catalogue part of this book is better done, indeed, than the Index, but still leaves much to be desired. As if, nevertheless, his subject was not enough for him, the compiler includes many books that in no way belong to law, such as works on shorthand and politics. Thus he includes two works on political economy. If two, why not more? We observe, indeed, that they are both recent, and both American, so that there may be some occult bookselling reason for including them. The list of abbreviations is altogether too foolish. We hope to return to the "very full Index of Subjects," and for the present will merely say that only great pains and great incompetence could have produced so elaborate and so poor a piece of work. Its compiler has still to learn the very rudiments of classification.

**Catalogue of Periodical Literature, Journals, and Transactions of Learned Societies, Issues from Government and Private Presses, Collections; to which are added a Botanical Library, a Scientific Library, and Miscellaneous Books. Offered by B. Quaritch.**  
London : B. Quaritch, 1882. 8vo, pp. iv.-445-807.

Lettered outside "General Catalogue, Pt. III." The index is in treble columns, occupies 42 pages, and is compiled in a very slovenly manner. Some idea of the practical value of the elaborate classification may be obtained from the fact that Freeman's Historical Geography is entered under Historical Collections, and Watt's Bibliotheca under Works on Natural History.

**The Two Worlds : Addressed to the Students of the Royal Academy.**  
By J. E. Hodgson, R.A. London : A. Seale [1882]. Sm. 8vo,  
16 pp.

An eloquent appeal by the new Librarian of the Royal Academy, in favour of books and literature, and pointing out to students the advantages they enjoy in the well-chosen library of that institution.

**Annuaire Bulletin de la Société de la l'Histoire de France. Année 1881.** Paris : Librairie Renouard, 1881. 8vo, pp. 320. Price, 5s.

Contains the usual valuable bibliography of works connected with French history. Among the documents reproduced in the "Seconde partie" are "Documents relatifs à la Bibliothèque du Roi et au Trésor des Chartes (1736-8).

**Bibliographie Raisonnée et Pratique. Guide du Libraire-antiquaire et du Bibliophile. Vade Mecum à l'usage de tous ceux qui achètent ou vendent des livres.** Par J. de Beanchamps et Ed. Ronveyre. **Première livraison.** Paris : E. Rouveyre et G. Blond, 1882. 8vo, pp. 16, and Album of 7 plates. Subscription (two monthly parts) 15 frs.

The first part of this periodical, announced in MONTHLY NOTES for May, has now come to hand and very disappointing it is. The literary part merely consists of a list of miscellaneous books likely to tempt the French collector, with notes evidently intended to sell the copies described. The Album comprises facsimiles of a volume with the Pompadour arms, the title page of an *Heures* of 1498, besides representations of the bindings of Capé, Allò and Derome. These are certainly very well reproduced, but are really only illustrated specimens of the books previously mentioned. Altogether, there is an unpleasant flavour of bookselling under false pretences in the new bibliographical journal.

**V Annuario delle Biblioteche popolari d'Italia dal 1879, in poi. Di Antonio Bruni, con cronaca estera.** Roma : Ettore Berni, 1882. Sm. 8vo.

Professor Antonio Bruni has been an active worker in the cause of popular education. In 1861 he founded, at Prato, a lending library, for the use of artisans ; and, during the last five years, has brought out, annually, this useful little publication, which includes appeals in favour of popular libraries besides a quantity of statistical information respecting them. The 8,300 communes of the Italian peninsula, at present, contain 5,000 of these institutions : France, however, which, in 1867, had only 4,823, now possesses 20,000.

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We regret to learn that the proposed scheme for an International Exhibition of the Graphic Arts and Book Manufacture spoken of in the May Number of MONTHLY NOTES has been abandoned. We owe this information to the courtesy of our member, Mr. Grevel, who has just returned from Leipzig.

The April Number of *The Cape Quarterly Review* contains the first of a series of "Notes on Books relating to South Africa," by Mr. George M. Theal.

The June Number of the *Antiquarian Magazine and Bibliographer* contains an account of the bibliography of the "Historia Trojana."

In the supplement issued with Part IV. of the *Western Antiquary*, edited by Mr. W. H. K. Wright, bearing date March, 1882, appears a specimen article of a "Devonshire Bibliography" contributed by the Rev. J. Ingle Dredge, dealing with the works of Theophilus Gale.

The June Number of the *Bibliographer* contains an interesting list by Mr. Edward Smith, of books of travel written by "Foreigners in England," which is disfigured, however, by some ugly misprints. As we have had occasion to observe before, bibliographical lists to be valuable must be thorough, and must above all be accurate. In the last number of the *Bibliographer*, the editor undertook to "arrange in chronological order" a list of some of the chief books on Siberia. The titles were very meagre and inaccurate, and the value of the chronology may be gauged by the fact that the "Jeune Sibérienne" of Xavierde Maistre was assigned to 1878. As many school-girls are aware, de Maistre died in 1852, so that any book issuing from him in 1878 must have been a communication from the spirit-world—and bibliography may begin to rank, not as a "physical," but as a "psychical" science.

#### C O R R E S P O N D E N C E.

##### T R A I N I N G O F L I B R A R Y A S S I S T A N T S.

SIR,—Although the system of apprenticing librarians has been adopted at Newcastle, Worcester, and other places, and was mentioned at the Edinburgh meeting in 1880 when the question was introduced, I am glad to tell "Paterfamilias" that the Association has thus far never recommended that young librarians should be bound over like so many Oliver Twists. I may add, that a report laid before the Gray's Inn Meeting in September last (see MONTHLY NOTES, II., 62-4) indicates the line which a thorough professional training should take. However, the report was "received" on that occasion but not "adopted," whatever the distinction may have been intended to mean, and the whole subject was afterwards referred (see MONTHLY NOTES, II., 74) to a committee, consisting of Messrs. Bradshaw, Mullins, Cowell, and Overall, so that we may now expect to see the matter dealt with in a liberal and comprehensive spirit.

I am, &c.,  
LIBRARIAN.

London: TRÜBNER & CO., Ludgate Hill.

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post free, 3s. 6d.*